

CONT'D

packet to be quickly and accurately folded into a complete key packet in two or fewer steps; and

one or more die-cut slots in the unfolded key packet which serve as a slot or slots to hold a number of keys in the complete key packet.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are now pending in the application. In the Office Action dated October 9, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skelton, U.S. Patent No. 4,850,611 ("Skelton") in view of Cowan, U.S. Patent No. 3,734,396 ("Cowan") and further in view of Jacobs, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,488,737 ("Jacobs"). The Examiner additionally rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skelton in view of Cowan and Jacobs and further in view of Zoland, U.S. Patent No. 5,303,956 ("Zoland").

Applicant's representative would like to thank the Examiner for her careful Response and for briefly discussing the application with Applicant's representative in a telephone interview on January 9, 2002. In view of the discussion, and the Examiner's Office Action, Applicant's representative has amended claim 1, above, to more distinctly claim and particularly point out what Applicant regards as his invention.

One embodiment of Applicant's invention is a rectangular, single-sheet combined registration form and key packet that may be printed during registration of a hotel guest. The combined registration form and key packet may be printed on a laser printer by a hotel clerk after entering hotel guest information into a computerized registration system. The hotel clerk may then detach the registration form from the combined registration form and key packet. The registration form is signed by the hotel guest and returned to the hotel clerk, while the hotel clerk folds the key packet along perforated lines and inserts a hotel room key into the completed key packet. Finally, the hotel clerk provides the folded key packet including the hotel room key to the hotel guest.

Figure 2 illustrates a rectangular, single-sheet, combined registration form and key packet blank. The blank includes a vertical line of perforations (202 in Figure 2) and two horizontal lines of perforations (204 and 210 in Figure 2). In addition, the blank includes,